

Two former officials split on SALT pact

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CHICAGO — A former member of the joint chiefs of staff said yesterday the Salt II treaty commits the United States to "nuclear inferiority," while a former CIA director said the nation would be better off with the pact than without it.

In the first of a series of public hearings on SALT II, opponent Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt charged that the pact permits the Soviet Union to increase its nuclear power and is misleading the American public into a "race toward inferiority."

"I favor a sensible strategic arms con-

trol agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. Salt II, in its present form, is not such an agreement," said Zumwalt, who was chief of US Navy operations from 1970 to 1974.

The pro-and-con debate between Zumwalt and former CIA Director William E. Colby at the Union League Club of Chicago was the first of 15 hearings to be held across the nation.

The event was co-sponsored by the Union League Club of Chicago and the Foreign Policy Association. Other organizations will sponsor future debates.

Colby, who headed the CIA from 1973-1976, said at a pre-debate news conference the United States would be "better able to manage with the Soviets if we ratify."